



**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
IMMT- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

July 22, 2020  
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present**

Shirley Fleming  
Cheryl Floyd  
Jessica Lamberson  
Angela Ellison  
Virginia Julion  
Tamela Milan-Alexander  
Pamela Roesch  
Karyn Stewart

**Members Not Present**

Bisola Bello  
Wandy Hernandez  
Stephannie James  
Kelsie Landers  
Jasmine Martin  
Judith Stewart  
Kathy Waligora  
Debra Wesley

**Guest**

Patricia B  
LaShonda Tate

**Virtual Meeting to occur via Cisco WebEx.**

Video Conference:

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m334ce265a45fbd5c50f6231419fed6cd>

Access Code: 133 774 7512

Join by Phone:

Telephone: (312) 535-8110 United States Toll (Chicago) // (415) 655-0002 US Toll  
Event Number (access code): 133 774 7512

**Call to Order:**

The subcommittee meeting began at 1:03 pm with a welcome from Tamela Milan-Alexander, Subcommittee Co-Lead. Roll was taken and the agenda approved. Dr. Shirley Fleming led the group in a centering and check-in exercise. Minutes from the July 8, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved with minor edit.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Research Workgroup Update**

Karen provided an update of research from the policy perspective. She mentioned supporting midwives and doulas because they help with the continuity of care issue. She also mentioned having policies regarding partner involvement, stress management such as maternal massages), and having safe sleep related trainings for service providers. Karen also mentioned a need to emphasize obesity as a real issue that needs to be addressed as well as maternal mental health. A final point raised was the need to establish a mechanism for reporting when there is inequitable care or episodes of misconduct/disrespect.

One member mentioned that there was a group in California working on a mechanism to capture inequitable treatment.

Jessica reported on additional research that may be relevant to the work of the subcommittee. She discussed definitions for toxic stress that were included the shared document located in Google Docs. She mentioned that the literature referenced frequent or prolonged adversity including emotional abuse, neglect, caregiving, substance abuse, mental illness, exposure to violence without adequate support, and racial discrimination.

Everyone agreed that the definition for toxic stress needed to be refined.

### **Revisiting the Survey/Focus Group Activities**

Tamela Milan-Alexander and LaShonda Tate (intern) will revise the questions. Tamela also mentioned the need to educate women about the signs and symptoms before they take the survey because some of them may not know some of these conditions or how they manifest to be able to report them accurately in a survey or discuss them in a focus group. The group agreed that information has to be presented in its simplest form. For example, it may be better to say having a shortness of breath as opposed to a blood clot or pulmonary embolism.

Dr. Fleming asked if the subcommittee had enough information on policy and research to make recommendations?

The group reviewed the survey questions and began to revise them. Kenya said she would put an initial draft together and then send it as homework for everyone to review and provide additional suggestions further improve the language.

### **Adjournment**

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.